

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TGEN, YO

SUBJECT: US-YUGOSLAV SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION: NSF TEAM VISIT,
133 PROJECT GF 31056

REF: STATE 32190

1. APPROXIMATE TOTAL COST OF TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES
OF U.S. DELEGATION AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL AMOUNTS TO
ROUGHLY \$9,800, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY CALCULATIONS. TO
PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, THIS IS APPROXIMATELY SAME AMOUNT
AS SPENT IN CY 1974 FOR ALL FIFTEEN TRIPS FINANCED OUT OF
JOINT BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.

2. EMBASSY, OF COURSE, RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF MISSION
FOR FUTURE NSF-YUGOSLAV SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND IS
ANXIOUS SUPPORT IT IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY. HOWEVER, WE
QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT PRECEDENT THIS MISSION WOULD
CREATE FOR SIMILAR LARGE EXPENDITURES BY YUGOSLAVS
OUT OF FUND. FURTHERMORE, CONSIDERATIONS OF PRUDENT
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS THAT
ORIGINALLY CAME FROM USG IMPEL US TO REQUEST THAT
EFFORTS BE MADE TO ENHANCE COST BENEFIT RATIO OF
MISSION BY EFFECTING SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS IN ITS OVERALL
COST.

3. FOLLOWING ARE AREAS IN WHICH WE THINK THESE
SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS CAN BE EFFECTED WITHOUT DETRACTING
IN ANY WAY FROM ACHIEVEMENT ITS OBJECTIVES:

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A. ELIMINATION OF REQUESTED PAYMENT FOR "MISCELLANEOUS AND LOCAL TRAVEL" EXPENSES OF \$18 PER DAY PER TRAVELER. NOT AT ALL CLEAR TO US WHAT EXPENSES ARE INTENDED TO BE COVERED BY THIS SUM, SINCE MOST USG TRAVELERS TO YUGOSLAVIA FIND THAT PER DIEM COMFORTABLY COVERS ALL EXPENSES LEGITIMATELY CHARGEABLE TO USG. ELIMINATION OF THIS ITEM WOULD SAVE APPROXIMATELY \$1300.

B. REDUCTION IN \$1500 REQUEST FOR CONFERENCE ROOM, TRANSLATORS/ INTERPRETERS AND CAR RENTAL. NOT AT ALL CLEAR TO US WHY CONFERENCE ROOM NEEDS TO BE RENTED AT ALL, SINCE WE ASSUME YUGOSLAVS PREPARED SUPPLY ONE FREE OF CHARGE OR AT NOMINAL COST. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR INTERPRETER, SINCE ENGLISH HAS GENERALLY BEEN USED AS JOINT BOARD LANGUAGE. IF YUGOSLAVS HAVE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS ON THEIR DELEGATION, ASSUME THEY WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AND WILL BEAR EXPENSE OF INTERPRETERS. SOME TRANSLATION EXPENSES MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN TRANSLATING DOCUMENTATION FROM MEETING, BUT WE DOUBT IF THIS COULD AMOUNT TO MORE THAN SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS. ONLY JUSTIFICATION FOR CAR RENTAL, WE CAN SEE, WOULD BE FOR BARTOCHA-ZALAR TRIP TO ROVINJ WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REACH VIA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. THREE DAYS OF CAR RENTAL AT \$60 PER DAY SHOULD BE ADEQUATE THAT PURPOSE. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THIS ITEM BE CUT TO \$400.

C. SEVERAL OTHER AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS ALSO POSSIBLE, INCLUDING REDUCING SIZE OF DELEGATION AND RE-SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS SO THAT THEY BEGIN ON MONDAY AND END ON FRIDAY -- IF LATTER POSSIBLE THERE WOULD BE A SAVINGS OF \$300 IN PER DIEM AND WOULD ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR EXCESS BAGGAGE FOR FOUR MEMBERS WITH ADDITIONAL SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY \$450.

4. EMBASSY, IN CALCULATING TOTAL COST OF MISSION HAS ASSUMED THAT PER DIEM AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES WOULD NOT BE REQUESTED FROM JOINT BOARD FUNDS WHEN DELEGATES ARE OUTSIDE OF YUGOSLAVIA AND PRESUMABLY CONDUCTING NSF BUSINESS UNRELATED TO YUGOSLAV MISSION (E.G., BROWN'S STAY IN LONDON MARCH 10 AND 11).

5. PLEASE REMIND DELEGATES THAT IF TRAVELING ON OFFICIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS, THEY MUST HAVE YUGOSLAV VISAS PRIOR THEIR ARRIVAL IN YUGOSLAVIA.

6. ADVISE.
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